

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/IB2004/050972

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 G11B27/32 G06F3/06

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
 IPC 7 G11B G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 293 566 A (AZUMATANI YASUSHI ET AL) 8 March 1994 (1994-03-08) abstract column 1, line 5 - column 2, line 11 column 4, line 62 - column 8, line 51 figures 3-6	1,3
A	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1998, no. 03, 27 February 1998 (1998-02-27) -& JP 09 288883 A (RICOH CO LTD), 4 November 1997 (1997-11-04) abstract ----- -/--	1,3

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- * & * document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

17 December 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

29/12/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
 Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
 Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Sucher, R

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/IB2004/050972

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P,X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 2003, no. 12, 5 December 2003 (2003-12-05) & JP 2004 062989 A (RICOH CO LTD), 26 February 2004 (2004-02-26) abstract	1-4
E	----- WO 2004/079739 A (ITO MOTOSHI; UEDA HIROSHI; MATSUSHITA ELECTRIC IND CO LTD) 16 September 2004 (2004-09-16) abstract -----	1,3

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/IB2004/050972

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
US 5293566	A	08-03-1994	JP	4106761 A	08-04-1992
JP 09288883	A	04-11-1997	NONE		
JP 2004062989	A	26-02-2004	NONE		
WO 2004079739	A	16-09-2004	WO	2004079739 A1	16-09-2004